

NCA  
VOC FOR OP/FN  
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5514  
DAVID LENT/ROME

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## ITALIAN POLITICAL DISARRAY

ANNCR:

EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ITALY'S POLITICAL CRISIS, NOW IN ITS FOURTH WEEK, APPEAR TO BE BOGGING DOWN. FROM ROME, VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID LENT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

THERE IS ONE CENTRAL ISSUE IN THIS POLITICAL CRISIS. IT IS THE VOTE OF THE COMMUNISTS IN WHATEVER GOVERNMENT CAN BE ARRANGED. FOR THE IRREDUCIBLE POLITICAL FACT OF LIFE IN ITALY TODAY IS THAT THE COUNTRY CANNOT BE GOVERNED WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNISTS. AND, DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS OF PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE GIULIO ANDREOTTI TO WIN THAT SUPPORT WITHOUT GIVING THE COMMUNISTS A RECOGNIZED ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT OR IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT. A RECOGNIZED ROLE IS PRECISELY WHAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY NOW INSISTS IS THE IRREDUCIBLE PRICE OF ITS SUPPORT.

ON WEDNESDAY, MISTER ANDREOTTI CONCLUDED A ROUND OF TALKS WITH PARTY LEADERS ON A NEW EFFORT TO BRING THESE CONFLICTING POSITIONS TOGETHER IN AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO GOVERN UNTIL ITALY ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THE LATEST TALKS REVEALED ONLY THAT DISARRAY BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS DEEPENING.

THE RIGHT OF CENTER LIBERALS TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE THAT THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN A CLEAR AND RECOGNIZED EMERGENCY MAJORITY OF THE KIND DEMANDED ON TUESDAY BY COMMUNIST LEADER ENRICO BERLINGUER. THIS REJECTION THREATENED THE ANDREOTTI EFFORTS BECAUSE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RIGHT WING

REFUSES TO ENTER INTO ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN WHICH THE LIBERALS DO NOT ALSO PARTICIPATE.

THERE IS TALK OF A NEW MEETING OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DIRECTORATE TO OPEN UP THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE LIBERALS' REJECTION DOES NOT MAKE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS POINTLESS. AT THE SAME TIME, A GROUP OF YOUNG TURK CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTIES, WHICH HAS BITTERLY OPPOSED OFFERING THE COMMUNISTS A DIRECT ROLE IN A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, HAS REQUESTED FOR THE SECOND TIME A MEETING OF THE PARTIES NATIONAL COUNCIL. THEY CONSIDER THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MORE REPRESENTATIVE THAN THE PARTY DIRECTORATE, WHICH IS MADE UP LARGELY OF FORMER MINISTERS. THEIR AIM IS TO OVERTURN A MANDATE GIVEN MISTER ANDREOTTI BY THE DIRECTORATE TO OFFER THE COMMUNISTS A LARGER SAY IN PROPOSING AND EXECUTING THE NEXT GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS IN RETURN FOR COMMUNIST SUPPORT.

ON THURSDAY, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS WILL MEET TO DISCUSS A DRAFT PROGRAM. AND IT IS AT THIS MEETING THAT THE YOUNG TURKS ARE EXPECTED TO PRESS THEIR DEMAND, AND PERHAPS, BRING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE POLITICAL CRISIS TO A HALT.

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JS/RTD